

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

August 5, 2002
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Degginger, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: Mayor Marshall

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation, one item of property acquisition, and one item of pending litigation.

The study session resumed at 6:53 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Regional Issues

City Manager Steve Sarkozy opened the discussion of regional issues. Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, recalled previous discussions with Council regarding King County parks and the Metropolitan Parks Task Force. She said Marymoor and Cougar Mountain Parks will remain regional facilities under King County's management, according to Executive Sims' Business Transition Plan. It is possible the Redmond and Mercer Island swimming pools will close as neither city has expressed an interest in acquiring these facilities.

Ms. Carlson noted Council's prior question about whether Conservation Futures funds can be used for parks that are transferred to cities. She said the use of these funds is restricted to the acquisition and purchase of future development rights. King County provides some grant funding to cities, however.

In response to Council's request for information regarding taxes paid to King County by Bellevue residents and the services they receive in return, Ms. Carlson noted the memo on page 3 of the Regional Issues packet. She said King County has never distinguished between local and

regional services in its budget. The county also does not differentiate between services provided to unincorporated versus incorporated areas of the county.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the county's Parks and Recreation Division Phase II Business Transition Plan. King County continues to focus on transferring or closing local, in-city facilities. Future funding strategies include seeking legislative approval to increase real estate excise taxes (REET) and pursuing changes in REET and Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) guidelines to allow maintenance expenditures.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Ms. Carlson said the regional finance and governance study a few years ago attempted to delineate city and county functions and responsibilities. She has requested additional information from King County's budget director regarding local versus regional spending.

Dr. Davidson expressed frustration with King County's budget crisis and wondered if anyone is holding the County Executive responsible. He said the county's budget cuts are increasing the burden on cities to provide services and programs.

In response to Mr. Lee, Jocelyn Mathiasen, Assistant to the City Manager, clarified that the table of "2001 Revenue to King County" represents tax revenue only, to address Council's question about taxes paid by Bellevue citizens.

Mr. Mosher feels cities are not obligated to pick up every service or program to be eliminated by King County. However, he is concerned that county parks have not been properly maintained and could become safety hazards. Ms. Carlson noted ongoing discussions with King County about acquiring Eastgate Park.

Moving on, Ms. Carlson recalled Council's discussion on April 22 regarding the Growth Management Planning Council's (GMPC) activities to allocate housing targets to local governments. In July, GMPC received an initial briefing on proposed employment targets and Deputy Mayor Degginger introduced a water supply Countywide Planning Policy. An amendment to this policy was subsequently submitted by the City of Seattle.

Deputy Mayor Degginger said Seattle's amendment identified a specific entity to coordinate all future water supply and demand, which was inconsistent with the proposed Countywide Planning Policy. He said a competing water-related CPP was introduced and a decision was made to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Ms. Carlson said Seattle also raised an issue about housing targets so GMPC moved that discussion to September as well.

Planning Director Dan Stroh provided an update on employment target allocations. He said the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires jurisdictions to update growth targets every 10 years. This is the first update to the targets, and adoption of new housing and employment targets is scheduled for September. Cities are required to plan for and accommodate their share of projected growth. King County is expected to add 294,000 residents and 289,000 new jobs over

the next 20 years. Mr. Stroh said Bellevue will need to make its local Comprehensive Plan consistent with the adopted targets.

Mr. Stroh said the proposed growth targets for Bellevue are lower than the actual rate of growth that has been experienced within the city. Existing zoning capacity is adequate to accommodate these targets, particularly within the downtown area. The City's Buildable Lands Report (October 31, 2001) indicated a capacity for approximately 75,000 new jobs based on existing zoning. The proposed job target for Bellevue is 40,000 new jobs between 2001 and 2022.

Mr. Stroh reviewed two job growth scenarios. The first scenario assumes the original Downtown Implementation Plan forecast from Spring 2000, which projected the addition of 44,000 downtown jobs between 2000 and 2020. This assumption was based on a consultant's market analysis as well as new and pending construction projects. The second scenario assumes a slower rate of growth due to the national recession and the collapse of the regional technology sector. Downtown office vacancies now reach almost 30 percent and major construction projects have been stalled. Mr. Stroh said staff is exploring the implications of this slower growth in terms of future infrastructure investments. He noted that Bellevue remains the top employment center for the Eastside in terms of existing and future jobs.

In response to Mr. Mosher, Mr. Stroh said the estimates of new jobs represents jobs for both existing and future residents.

Mr. Lee questioned the relationship between housing and job targets. Mr. Stroh said the targets were developed with the goal of providing a balance in jobs and housing for each sub-region (North/SeaShore, Eastside, South County, and rural cities) of King County. The starting point at the regional level was to look at expected job growth based on a market analysis. Housing targets are then developed based on expected job growth and local market factors for each jurisdiction.

Responding to Mr. Degginger, Mr. Stroh said sanctions are not imposed for a failure to meet targets because cities provide the infrastructure but the private sector provides housing and jobs. A new Countywide Planning Policy addresses this issue.

Ms. Carlson described three proposed Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) that have been sent to cities for ratification:

- Substitute motion 00-3 – Recommending amendments to the Urban Growth Boundary map to reflect land use map amendments adopted during the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan update.
- Motion 01-3 – Amending the CPPs and the Urban Growth Area to reflect resolution of the City of Snoqualmie's joint planning area and supporting the Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative.
- Substitute Motion 01-1 – Recommending maps of existing Urban Separators be added to the Countywide Planning Policies.

Mr. Creighton noted that Bellevue supported these motions throughout the GMPC process.

Responding to Mr. Noble, Ms. Carlson said attempts to work out a compromise between Auburn and Renton on the urban separator issue are ongoing. She noted the motion language on pages 83 and 84 of the Regional Issues packet.

Deputy Mayor Degginger noted Council consensus to support the three motions regarding Countywide Planning Policies.

(b) 156th Avenue Walkway/Bikeway Project

Discussion of the 156th Avenue walkway/bikeway project was deferred to September.

At 7:58 p.m., Deputy Mayor Degginger declared recess to the regular session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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